



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.5 Thursday, January 29, 2015

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Library funds spent on DNR site at least \$190,000

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

"I want the public to know how much was wasted on a site that was resoundingly refused by the public," Barbara Miller told the Belleville Area District Library Board at its regular meeting Jan. 13.

She said while the board's CPA Ron Traskos estimated \$165,000 at the last meeting, Miller said she believes it is at least \$190,000 and probably more.

Miller, an attorney, said she had submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the library asking for documents on the money spent from the library's operating budget and fund balance to pay for various aspects of the failed building proposal.

Miller asked for "a copy of the breakdown of the specific expenses of any kind and nature that were paid regarding the proposed new library" including, "... real estate options, property taxes attorney fees, architect fees, printing costs for publicity, design expenses for publicity, bond counsel and other consultant fees."

She said she received an answer to her FOIA, but she is going to appeal it since she believes many invoices were not included.

Deputy Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said there were a couple of items missed in Traskos' report, but he was reporting on the fiscal year.

Miller said, for example, the Thrun law firm wasn't on his list. Also, all the property appraisals and real estate options weren't included, among other omissions.

On the accounts payable list for the Jan. 13 meeting the board approved a Dec. 16 payment of \$7,266.30 for summer and winter property taxes for the Jerry and Charlotte Spencer property next door to the DNR property that was proposed to be part of the new library site.

(continued on page 8)



The Belleville Wrestling Club is made up of, standing from left: Coaches Logan Toth, John Toth, Jeremy Osborne, Bobby Ostrowski, Eric Jones, and President Jim Majewski, Head Coach Shannon Williams, and Trevor Brooks. In the second row, also standing from left are: Jerick Prince, Blake Williams, Connor Majewski, James Grondy, and Jordan Shafer. Third row, kneeling, from left are: Jeremy Osborne, Connor Williams, Jaime Vasquez, Erin Bohnmont, Austin Martin, Gabe Toth, Eric Jones Jr., Justice Shafer, and Michael Vanassche. Fourth row, sitting from left, are: Jackson Ostrowski, Steven Gould, Kasey Settles, Cameron McCassey, Levi Meggison, Luke Harrison, and Jasmine Shafer. All coaches and wrestlers from the Belleville Wrestling Club are not pictured. See letter page 11.

## Enforcement to begin Feb. 1 for Harbour Pte. street parking

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Enforcement on the new parking ordinance for Harbour Pointe subdivision begins on Feb. 1. This follows a 90-day period the city gave to residents to get used to the new procedure before starting to write tickets or tow vehicles.

The ordinance calls for parking on only one side of the streets in the subdivision to allow clearance for emergency vehicles.

In a last-ditch effort, ordinance opponent Jeff Harris attended the Jan. 20 Belleville City Council meeting with a written proposal, which he handed to the council.

His proposal apparently called for doubled-sided parking in the front of the subdivision, with single sided parking beyond that.

Harris and his daughters have been the only residents of Harbour Pointe to attend council meetings to protest the new parking rules. They presented a lengthy report on

parking in other communities to the council at one point. The main thought seemed to be that wider thoroughfares encouraged speeding.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said the city fire chief was not present at that night's meeting, but she had no reason to believe he would change his mind on the new regulations that he requested.

Keith Tackett, DPW Director, said the very day after the last council meeting that Harris attended, the city had a slowdown of an emergency vehicle at the site that Harris wants to be two-sided parking. He

(continued on page 7)

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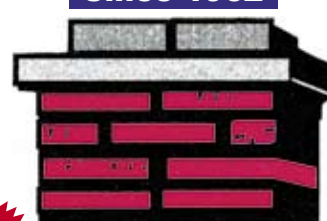
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Tony D'Onofrio elected for fourth term as president of Friends

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Tony D'Onofrio was elected 2015 president of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library at Saturday's annual membership meeting. This is the fourth year that D'Onofrio is serving as president.

Nakenya Lewis Yarbrough, who served as president in 2014, at the last minute told the group she couldn't serve as president this year because of the time spent at her work and college classes. So, D'Onofrio, who was slated to run for vice president for a second year, instead agreed to run as president and Yarbrough was elected vice president.

Katerina Tyner was elected treasurer and Rick Cichewicz, secretary.

During the meeting Cichewicz, who had served as treasurer last year, gave the report that there was \$14,361.87 total in the treasury at the end of the year and more than \$11,000 was spent throughout the year.

Among the purchases for the library, the Friends provided a new outside book drop, paid for half of the Summer Reading program, and replaced ten worn-out office chairs.

Book Chairman Carol Schank was not present, but sent a report that the four book sales and donations at those sales in 2014 brought a total of \$1,376.65.

Books sold at the library entryway and the book room, plus more donations, brought a total of \$7,367.33.

In a note at the bottom of her report, Schank wrote: "Some of the donations are from the gentleman who buys the boxes of discarded books. Other donations are end of year."

Membership Chairman Marty Wilson said in 2014, there was \$692 paid for normal memberships and \$2,650 in donations. In 2015, so far, \$253 has been paid for memberships.

Program Chairman Dee Crowe gave a written and oral report on the nine programs presented in the 2014 "Homegrown Knowledge Series." She said travelogues are the best attended and, "If you've traveled someplace, give us a call."

She announced upcoming programs: Judge Parrott talking about the court system on Feb. 12 and Hilary Savage talking about her visit to India on March 12. Savage is in India now.

Barbara Miller said from the audience that she saw April 9 and May 14 had no programs listed and she wanted to suggest a program.

Miller said a student who lives in Belleville did an analysis of a library in

Belleville, "by happenstance," and Bernie Grant heard it.

Grant said he is an architect at Hamilton Anderson in downtown Detroit and heard the student give a presentation for a college class. The student analyzed the City of Belleville and possible uses of the library.

"It was the best project in the class," Grant said, adding that it would give people something to think about.

Library Director Deb Green said she had worked with the student and got him information he needed. She said there is a program that is confirmed for the April session now – Feril Foods of Willis.

So, after discussion, Crowe agreed to schedule the student to give his presentation on Belleville and the library on May 14.

Members of the audience were urged to take copies of the library survey out to their friends and neighbors to fill out. The deadline is March 31. Director Green said she has 300 surveys completed, which is a good start.

## Court employees set pancake benefit for former Romulus cop

In 2005, Romulus Police Officer Clifford West was diagnosed with "Inclusion Body Myositis."

This is an incurable and progressively degenerative muscle disease. It has taken the strength and function of both his arms and legs and he was forced into a medical retirement.

West now is dependent upon a powered wheelchair for mobility. The West family had to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van, but it is in need of repairs. Numerous modifications need to be made to the family home to accommodate West's needs, along with medical expenses not covered by his insurance.

West's wife, Lee Ann, has become his full-time caregiver along with raising their young son.

The employees of 34<sup>th</sup> District Court are holding a benefit all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga, Romulus. Donation is \$10 and menu is pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice.

"Please come and have breakfast and help a family in need," said court employee Michelle Wild, (734) 748-9057. "We thank you in advance."



A "Lifetime Achievement Award" was presented to incoming Friends President Tony D'Onofrio at Saturday's annual meeting of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library. Presenting the award was outgoing Friends President Nakenya Lewis Yarbrough. An award of "Member of the Year" was announced for Linda Arnold, but she was not present to accept her award.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Marcie and Bob Warren were given the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library plaque for "Dynamic Duo" at Saturday's annual General membership meeting of the Friends. Presenting the award was outgoing Friends President Nakenya Lewis Yarbrough.



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Employee speaks out on VBPS working conditions

A custodian who left her job Monday because the stress was too great to try to continue working for the Van Buren Public Schools, said as long as she was leaving, she might as well go out telling the whole story. Her report is on page 5.

Is this an aberration? A fluke? Hardly.

We hear reports regularly from inside the VBPS, but few are willing to stand up and attach their names to their comments for fear of losing their jobs, which sustain them and their families. Fear wins here.

But some press ahead fearlessly and win. For example, a law suit recently was settled out of court with two former employees: Karen Mida and Margaret Voigt. They sued after they were pushed out of their jobs by new School Supt. Michael Van Tassel. Both were contenders for his position and Voigt actually had been named deputy superintendent by the previous superintendent. Now they are gone.

We submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the VBPS to find out how much the school district had to pay to settle the case, because that's how we always get the figure and the plaintiffs had signed non-disclosure statements. But, VBPS refuses to release the number saying, incredibly, that they don't have paperwork concerning that because it's all handled by their insurance company. We appealed and School Board President Brent Mikulski turned down our appeal.

More to come on this.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At 34<sup>th</sup> District Court last Wednesday, there were two teenage BHS dropouts having to go before Judge Oakley, side by side, for their punishment for getting busted by City of Belleville police for using marijuana on Dec. 22.

One has a job in construction and the other at an assisted living home and one is working on his GED. They accepted plea deals and pled guilty to using marijuana. Their sentence is deferred for six months and if they have no other infractions the charges are dismissed.

They must pay their fines of \$450 each, work three days on the court work program each, have random testing, and substance abuse classes. I'm sure they'll do all the right things because they looked like they would.

You just wonder if they would have been better off staying in school and getting interested in other kinds of recreation.

\*\*\*

Jim Frazier of Sumpter Township called to tell us he has been called repeatedly by a lady calling herself June Smith, who says she's from the IRS and if he doesn't give his ID number or Social Security number to her, "Be prepared to be arrested."

He said the IRS already has all of his numbers so he gave her nothing and said she could come on and arrest him. He said she called him about six times, so finally he called Sumpter police and they said they weren't going to arrest him and it was a scam – which he knew.

The phone number this "June Smith," who didn't speak very good English, was using was (415) 735-7128.

\*\*\*



We received a call from Belleville resident Peggy Balestrieri about another scam. This had her exact name and address on a "parcel claim card" that said they were holding \$50 in jewelry for her and she needed to call. "Me, of all people, would not order jewelry," she said, noting she is not a jewelry person.

The number she didn't call (because she knew it was a scam) was 1-800-499-8068. The return address was for National Parcel Services with a post office box in Westbrook, ME 04098.

She thought we should warn the public about this scam. Consider yourself warned.

\*\*\*

We've been told that two people were holding up signs at Owen and Sumpter roads around noontime on Jan. 21 as parents were coming to pick up their children from the half day of classes at Owen school.

The driver who saw the signs said he had to watch where he was driving, but one sign looked like it was asking people to boycott School Supt. Van Tassel and the other said disabled kids were being discriminated against.

If anyone wants to explain what was going on, please call me at 699-9020.

\*\*\*

Last Wednesday, Jan. 21, was the day the VBT Environmental Commission was to meet at the township hall. I was going to attend again and write about their work to

improve the local environment.


But, they canceled their meeting to go to a tour of EQ landfill. A quorum of a township commission going off together without the public? Ah, this doesn't seem right, especially when it's their regular meeting night. It should have been posted.

I remember in Sumpter, years ago, when the planning commission chairman used to have his commission meet somewhere to look over the property that was requesting something from it. While that is very good practice to look at property you are considering making a decision about, it wasn't legal (in my opinion) to have a quorum together at a site without letting the public know. Especially, when they were talking about the site that they would be voting on in an hour or so. It, too, should have been posted so the public could go.

I sure hope the VBT Environmental Commission doesn't take another private tour together. This is the same commission that meets for pizza and general discussion before its posted meeting time and refuses to be on cable TV because it inhibits their comments. Who can tell what is going on?

There are great people on that commission, but they march to their own drum beat and aren't following the Open Meeting Act.





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**Letters****This is how VBPS  
treats an employee**

To the Editor:

In July, I started going to the doctor because they thought I had cancer. A couple of times I had to call off my doctor's appointments because my supervisor, James Williams, wouldn't allow me to leave an hour early or take the day off.

I had sick and vacation days coming, but still I was turned down.

I was Head Custodian for McBride Middle School and worked for the district almost 16 years.

I found out I didn't have cancer, but in September I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. That's when my doctor gave me three restrictions because they were running more tests on me, but I could do all the other jobs I was supposed to do.

Because of the vibrations into my hands, my doctor didn't want me to: use a weed whipper, do snow blowing (no snow yet), or mow a courtyard that took just a half hour a week.

I let Mr. Williams know what I had and gave him my restriction note. He told me how deeply sorry he was. Then later on that day I got called into his office. He told me he had to do some more checking into it, but he didn't think he had to accommodate my restrictions, like he didn't believe what I had. He said he would keep me informed. I went back to work the next day and got a phone call saying there was someone coming to replace me and I should go to the Ad. Building.

When I went in his office, he said with a smile on his face, "We do not have to accommodate you" and that I was off work until I went back to the doctor. Without pay.

Then I got diagnosed with the fibromyalgia, COPD, and osteoarthritis.

I informed the school of my diagnosis, but they had no response. I had to end up quitting.

I went to the union but I was told the school claimed "hardship" and they couldn't pay me, which they said is allowed.

I didn't need all the stress and so I quit on Monday, Jan. 26. I feel a lot of relief. There was so much stress.

Earlier Mr. Williams insisted I fill out a family leave form to get the two weeks of vacation I had coming. I had asked for the vacation in advance because my mother was having surgery. My mother's doctor had to sign something just for me to get the vacation I earned to take care of my mother.

People don't know what it's like working as a custodian for the school district. They cut our pay. Laid custodians off, so we were working bare bones. But, it's funny how the upper people get raises and we don't.

The district came up with an anti-bullying policy for the students. We all should be concerned about our students being bullied. But, the management of Van Buren Public Schools does not seem to care how the employees are treated by their supervisors.

The emotional and mental treatment of employees is nothing less than another form of bullying. If you stand up for yourself or anyone else, you are watched for any mistake. People start staying away from you because they do not want to be in the spotlight with you.

My friends in the union who stand up for us and our contract are always questioned about what they are doing. When night custodians have an issue, the union grievance person is not allowed on the property at all without permission of management.

I believe Mr. Williams and other people in management would like to see strong employees quit or retire. Control is a form of bullying. There is no way around it.

I will take my retirement and seek SSI. My doctor told me I'd have to get an attorney to get SSI.

The good part of my life is that I got married on Nov. 22 to a good man. That helps a lot.

I just wanted the people in the Van Buren Public Schools district to know what's going on. If they treat their employees like this, how do you think they treat your children?

Toni Wheeler McNaughton  
Sumpter Township

**Dennis Hogan named to  
Culver-Stockton honor roll**

Dennis Hogan of Belleville was named to the Culver-Stockton College Honor Roll for work done during the fall 2014 semester. He is a sophomore majoring in sports management.

Culver-Stockton College, located in Canton, MO, is a four-year residential institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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## More Letters

### Thanks to all who donated to annual party

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a most heartfelt thank you to all those that donated to the 2014 Sumpter Township Annual Children's Christmas Party.

Without the generosity of those that contributed, not only monetarily but with their time, this event could not remain the success and tradition it has become.


I would like to acknowledge the following sponsors:

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Alan D. Bates, Mr. Matthew Oddy, Mr. & Mrs. Cichewicz, Mr. Nelson Po, Fox Auto Parts, Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, New Atlantic Welding Supply, Davenport Brothers Construction, Utilities Management Service, WCA Assessing, Jim Hughes Service, Burhop Collision Inc., Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne, Wallside Windows, Public Service Credit Union, CRG Electric LLC, The Pumpkin Factory, Keller's Real Farm Bakery, Burnham & Flower Agency, Mr. Roof Ann Arbor, Benito's 5 Star, Belleville Rotary Club, Insurance Auto Auctions, Hennessey Engineers, Judge David Parrott, Republic Services, Inc., David C. Brown Funeral Home, Martin & Son, Wolverine Power Cooperative and the sponsors that asked to remain anonymous. A thank-you to the Law Office of Robert P. Young, who generously provided lunch to all the township employees during our busy holiday season. A special thanks also to the numerous volunteers that selflessly contributed their time to insure the success of the Children's Christmas Party.

John W. Morgan  
Sumpter Township Supervisor



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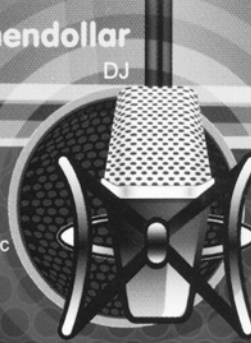
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# Enforcement

(continued from page 1)

said he didn't think the fire chief would be interested in having two-sided parking there.

"Enforcement begins Feb. 1," said Mayor Conley. "We meet on Feb. 2," referring to the next council meeting.

"The original purpose of the proposal is access to the site," Councilman Tom Fielder said of the new regulations. "The administration has never brought up 'speed' ... It was never brought up by police that there has been excessive speed there." He said he stays with his vote to approve the new regulations.

Planning commission member Mike Renaud, who also lives in Harbour Pointe, said to Police Chief Hal Berriman that when he starts enforcement he might look at those who block the sidewalks because there are two or three who regularly do that.

"Is the fire chief calling the shots?" asked Harris. "Did you even read the document I brought?" he asked the mayor.

Mayor Conley was absent the night he and his daughters presented the study they prepared with information from the internet. At the next meeting, she said she hadn't read it yet.

But, at the Jan. 20 meeting, she told Harris: "I did. I actually did [read it]." She said the communities reported on in their study were very different than the city of Belleville.



Mayor Conley told Harris the city has installed signs and given the residents 90 days to get used to the idea.

"You have come to many meetings to get us to change our decision," Mayor Conley said. "My opinion hasn't changed."

Later in the meeting, after Harris had left, Mayor Conley, who also lives in Harbour Pointe, said she drives an SUV, not an

ambulance or a fire truck, and, "It is tight ... and sometimes I have trouble getting through."

DPW Director Tackett said the non-enforced compliance since the signs went up has been "shocking," indicating he was pleasantly surprised that most of the people are already following the new rules.

When asked about the signs, Tackett said at the beginning when the signs were installed, one sign turned up missing and then showed up.

In other business at the Jan. 20 meeting, the council:

- Opened one sealed bid submitted for Community Development Block Grant Engineering and Program Management Services from Hennessey Engineering and then accepted the bid unanimously, with the stipulation that this would be after review of the bid by the administration. The work is on the Village Park playscape and the CDBG funds must be expended by the end of August. These expenses are reimbursable through the CDBG fund;

- Approved street closings necessary for the Kona Strawberry Run at 7 p.m. on June 19, the Friday of Strawberry Festival. The run will start at Horizon Park and go along Main Street parking lane to Denton Road Bridge and then up and around the lakeshore and back. Kona president Alan Whitehead and Larry O'Sullivan were present to explain the race;

- Approved Sept. 12 and 13 as the days for the citywide yard sales, where residents can have sales without permits;

- Approved accounts payable of \$96,628.71 and departmental purchases in excess of \$500: Allie Brothers, \$531.92,

for police uniforms; Miss Dig, \$848.94 for annual membership; Morton Salt, \$6,483.47 for bulk salt; and Stoney Creek, \$511.85 for maintenance;

- Heard Mayor Conley report on the recent Council of Western Wayne meeting, noting the ballot proposal for a 1% sales tax increase for roads needs education of voters. She also said they were told Comcast is merging with Time Warner and will have a new name for the cable. She said the email is being phased out and people will get notice in the mail. Also, she said, the Belleville and Romulus Mayors' Ball in Romulus will be held Feb. 14. Last year it sold out;

- Was reminded the sealed bids for Planning and Zoning services will be opened at the next meeting, Feb. 2;

- Heard Mayor Conley say there will be an action item on the Feb. 2 agenda on the South Huron Valley Utility Authority Consolidated Service Agreement. She said it took 4.5 years to negotiate a contract with Wayne County and they finally came up with a compromise. Thirteen communities all have to approve and in December the county approved. Township attorney Steve Hitchcock will come to the Feb. 2 meeting and provide comments since there is a lot to be considered. (Van Buren Township approved the agreement without comment on its consent agenda Jan. 13.); and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss pending union negotiations and then came back into public session only to adjourn.

"You have to be odd to be number one."

— Dr. Seuss

## Obituaries

### LORRAINE E. MASON

(December 2, 1923 - January 24, 2015)  
Age 91, of Belleville. Survived by 5 children, Janet Elliott, Elaine Hardie, Daniel Mason, Lynn Elliott, and David Mason; grandchildren great- and great-great-grandchildren; 2 sisters. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

### DOROTHY ELLEN PULVER

(December 13, 1922 - January 21, 2015)  
Age 92, of Belleville. Survived by 3 daughters Lori Harmon, Carol Baisch and Linda Lunsford; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and a great-great grandchild. Memorial service held Jan. 26 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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# Library

(continued from page 1)

Paying the Spencer taxes for summer and winter 2013 for \$7,152.33 was an option payment for the property, which was approved in 2013 by the district library board. According to tax records, that was paid Dec. 31, 2013.

The summer and winter taxes for 2014 were paid Sept. 10 and Dec. 31, for a total of \$7,266.30.

No mention was made of the second tax payment before the accounts payable were approved at the Jan. 13 library meeting meeting.

But in the July 29, 2013 Option Agreement for Land Purchase provided to the *Independent* by Suchy upon request, the Spencers agree to grant exclusive right to the library to purchase 11933 Belleville Road at the library's option until July 31, 2015 for the cash price of \$595,000.

Besides the \$1 paid to the Spencers for the agreement, the library also agreed to pay summer and winter taxes for the 2013 and 2014 tax years. The library has to inform the Spencers that they are buying the property on or before July 31, 2015 and the closing on the sale must take place before Oct. 31, 2015.

According to the agreement, the property taxes paid by the library for those two years would be deducted from the purchase price of the property. Or, if the option is canceled, the Spencers can keep all payments made to that date.

In other business at the Jan. 13 meeting, the library board:

- Witnessed the swearing in by 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge David Parrott of the four library board members elected Nov. 4: Lachelle Caver, Mary Jane Dawson, Sharon Peters, and Tanya Stoudemire;

- Re-elected Mary Jane Dawson as chairwoman and Joy Cichewicz as secretary; and elected new members Sharon Peters as vice chairwoman and Tanya Stoudemire as treasurer. As the election of officers began, Stoudemire nominated Cichewicz for chairwoman, but Cichewicz declined the nomination;

- Approved a schedule indicating 15 days the library will be closed for various holidays and events. Board member Mike

Boulter asked why the library was closed on Friday and Saturday of Strawberry Festival and was told people in the past just came in to use the restroom and drinking fountains. Director Deb Green said people didn't come in for books. The library now uses the Friday of the festival as an in-service training day. "It's been a long time since we've been open during Strawberry Festival, but we can think about it," Green said. Later in the meeting Boulter said he had been rethinking his comments and the staff shouldn't try to be open on Strawberry Festival because the people in town aren't from this area and the traffic is heavy;

- Discussed the public survey that was approved in December and ways to distribute it. There were 90 responses reported, all on-line. Cichewicz said some large-print versions, twice the size at eight pages, were dropped off at the Sumpter Senior Center and Sumpter Township Hall. The library also has some large-print copies to distribute. Green said some surveys had been put out on the library counter earlier that day and five were filled out and returned. The deadline for surveys is March 31 and then the results will be compiled for the April meeting. Cichewicz said it is easier for them if the surveys are done online because otherwise they have to be entered into the database;

- Heard a report on the new thermal counter that records how many people enter the library. This is more accurate than the old counter which counted people who entered together as one. The new counter records from above and is recording twice as many people;

- Heard board member Caver suggest that the board might like to look at the day the meetings are held and consider a possible

change. For years members of the meeting audience have been asking the board to set their meeting dates so Sumpter residents could attend. The district library covers the communities of Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter, but the library meeting is held on the same night as the Sumpter meeting;

- Heard board member Peters say she was glad all the chairs in the audience were filled up that evening and she looks forward to engaging more of the community concerning the library; and

- Heard chairwoman Dawson say she will talk to each of the board members first before making her new committee appointments.



Photo courtesy Mary Jo Suchy

Members of the Belleville Area District Library Board elected Nov. 4 were sworn in before their meeting on Jan. 13 by 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge David Parrott. From left are Mary Jane Dawson, Sharon Peters, Lachelle Caver, and Tanya Stoudemire.

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**45230 Greenbriar, Belleville**  
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**7424 Natalie, Ypsilanti Twp**  
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**45883 Purplesage, Belleville**  
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**19681 Somers, New Boston**  
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# New DDA chairman



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman*

Newly elected chairman of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority Rosemary Loria, left, receives the gavel from retired DDA chairman John Hoops. Loria was elected at the Jan. 21 DDA meeting. Hoops declined to be reappointed to the DDA after announcing his business, Belleville Mill, would close at the end of the day on Dec. 31.

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## More Letters

### Belleville Wrestling Club wins trophy

To the Editor:

The Belleville Wrestling Club hosted its first regular season tournament on Sunday, Jan. 11, bringing in over 300 youth wrestlers and their families.

What a great success it was for BWC, winning their first-ever team trophy with a third-place finish.

Special thanks to our local sponsors, Belleville Meijer and Belleville Tim

Horton's, for the concession stand donations. Also a huge THANK YOU to the parents, coaches, friends and family members of the club for volunteering their time all day to make this a successful tournament.

The BWC looks forward to hosting the regional tournament at Belleville High School in March, which we expect to bring in over 600 youth wrestlers and their families.

Thank you for your support.  
Jim Majewski and the BWC board  
Jen Settles, secretary

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— Harry S. Truman

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### A seven-cent tip? Really? I mean, really?

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to tell people about tipping, or as some people call it, gratuity. We all love making money and some don't like their jobs. But, as for myself, I absolutely love my job. I am a delivery driver. I bring your food to your door when it's raining out, snowing, icy, or hot. Sometimes, you're just plain tired and don't want to leave the comfort of your home, or it has been a long day at work and you don't feel like cooking.

That's where we come in: your drivers, cooks and waitresses. I understand times can be tough, but an extra dollar or two won't break the bank if you're able to eat out.

You see, that's how we make our living. Most places only pay \$2.65 an hour for these types of occupations. The rest is made from tips. Some restaurants split the tips between the waitresses and bus-boys (-women). Even the IRS expects a certain amount of money and we have to pay taxes on these "wages" that sometimes don't meet those expectations. As for "delivery charges," well, the driver might get a buck from it, so if you drive 10 miles round-trip, that barely covers the gas. Thank goodness the gas prices are down right now.

I will always greet you with a smile and all I ask for it to be able to leave with a smile.

Servers are trained to have good memories, so please keep in mind you can make many people happy, provide good memories and big smiles when you leave a reasonable tip for good service. You wouldn't want to be remembered as the "keep the change" customer when it's less than a dollar.

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### Thanks to customers for all they've done at Leo's

To the Editor:

This is to our customers, from the staff of Leo's Coney Island (Belleville).

With your support and generosity through the calendar year 2014, we raised enough money to not only donate to Team Zac but were able to adopt two families for Christmas, as well.

You have been kind and patient with us over the last three months as we trained new employees on our premises to staff our newest location opening soon in Flat Rock.

For all you have done, we would like to say thank you, from all of us here at Leo's Coney Island (Belleville). We look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Staff at Leo's Coney Island, Belleville

### Thank you for shoveling my driveway, sidewalk

To the Editor:

I live in Victorian Commons on Thornhill Court. I went out Wednesday morning, the 21<sup>st</sup>, to shovel my driveway and sidewalk and to my surprise it had been done. Don't know who did it. I hope they read the *Independent* because I would like to thank the person or persons.

Thank you,  
Willie Sanders  
Belleville

## Birthdays

Jan. 22 – Scott Russell

Jan. 31 – Karen Mida, Craig Atchinson

Feb. 1 – Joy Cichewicz, Kathie Steigerwald

Feb. 2 – Denise Bukis

Feb. 3 – Deb Royal

Feb. 4 – Keith Johnston

Do you have a birthday in February? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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*Independent* photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

A fire erupted in a garage in the middle of the mobile home park at 600 Sumpter Road at about 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Fire trucks from Van Buren Township, City of Belleville and Sumpter Township were at the scene. Belleville and Sumpter responded as part of the Automatic Mutual Aid agreement recently signed with VBT. VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said fire fighters saved several 4-wheelers and ATVs. He said it was a stubborn fire because they couldn't access the fire easily because of the large amount of storage inside. Chief Besson said the fire is of undetermined cause but they do not suspect arson.

## Novay, Hurley of Belleville honored for work at Davenport U.

Davenport University has announced that Pavlina Novay of Belleville has been named to the President's List for the fall 2014 semester. The President's List recognizes top students who excel with outstanding academic performance. To achieve

recognition, a student must maintain a minimum 3.8 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

Davenport University also announced that Jessica Hurley of Belleville has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester. To achieve the Dean's List, a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

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## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Jan. 30** – Potato Pancake Supper, 4:30-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at St.

John's Lutheran Church, on the west side of the church, 28320 Waltz Road, Waltz. Donation is \$10 for adults; \$4 donation for children 6-12; children 5 and under free. Carry-outs after 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML.

• **Saturday, Jan. 31** – St. Anthony Men's Club Holiday Dance, Mardi Gras, in the

Father Folta building behind the church. Tickets, \$30 per person. Call Garden Fantasy for information, (734) 699-7370.

• **Saturday, Feb. 7** – Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library, noon to 3 p.m. Members of the Friends group can come at 11 a.m.

• **Thursday, Feb. 12** – At 7 p.m. 34<sup>th</sup>

District Court Judge David M. Parrott will give a presentation on the court system in the Belleville Area District Library Program Room.

• **Thursday, Feb. 19** – Third Thursday lecture at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum features Russell Dore telling the Story of Billy Durant, founder of General Motors. Free to members of the Belleville Historical Society and \$5 for non-members.

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Second-Annual Cabin Fever Bowling Fundraiser at Thunderbowl Lanes, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. Check in 4:30 p.m.; 5 p.m. start time. \$20 per person, includes three hours of bowling, pizza and pop. Pre-registration by Feb. 10. Questions: Pat Clemens (313) 319-4715 or (734) 461-9458 or email [pado01@att.net](mailto:pado01@att.net).

• **Sunday, Feb. 22** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted. You Pugs will love you for their new social life! [www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs](http://www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs)

• **Friday, Feb. 27** – Thirty-fourth District Court employees are sponsoring an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast benefit for retired Romulus Police Officer Cliff West, who is fighting Inclusion Body Myositis. The breakfast will run from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Romulus Progressive hall, 11580 Ozga Rd. Donation \$10.

• **Friday, Feb. 27** – Celebrate "Mardi Gras Around the World" at the Van Buren Eagles, with the social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m., dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and music by the Paul Keller "At Sundown" Quintet. All-you-can-eat buffet dinner. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, if available. Information and reservations, Keith & Ginger Bruder, (734) 461-2498.

### Upcoming Meetings

• **Monday, Feb. 2** – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 3** – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• **Thursday, Feb. 5** – Belleville Zoning Board of Appeals, 5:30 p.m., consider variance for setback at 193 Potter Dr.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 10** – September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7 p.m.



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# C of O's to be withheld at Walden Woods to get Morton Taylor paved

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Three certificates of occupancy will be withheld by Van Buren Township from the developers of Walden Woods subdivision as leverage to get Morton Taylor Road paved.

At the Jan. 13 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees, Joseph Oliver of Robson Road, a neighbor to Walden Woods, returned to again talk about his fears that the original developer is getting ready to walk away before doing the paving because his three final houses are almost done.

The Planned Residential Development agreement with Walden Woods Development LLC of Farmington for Walden Woods also promises lighting and sidewalks in Phase 5, which are not completed.

Oliver said the McKenna Associates planning consultants said the road paving was put off with a "backdoor handshake deal" between the supervisor and the developer.

Current VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said she talked with the township's new Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles and they agree there is nothing in writing to change the PRD agreement.

The township will withhold the certificates of occupancy for the last three homes until the terms of the PRD agreement are fulfilled, Supervisor Combs said.

"This was nothing I knew of before I took office," she said.

She said when the housing market tanked, things slowed down for the developer and he wanted to wait to pave until the commercial corner, at Tyler and Morton Taylor, was developed.

"Now they are down to three and this is the only leverage we have left," Combs said.

Trustee Phil Hart asked about a "backhanded agreement" since any agreements have to go through the process and come before the board.

Combs clarified that the agreement

wasn't with the former supervisor, but with a former planning director.

"They had a handshake deal they could wait to pave," Combs said.

"That's more feasible than saying it was the former supervisor," Trustee Hart said.

Oliver clarified the for-sale signs are on the vacant lots, not on homes that are 75% done.

Oliver said he also uncovered a stub road from the subdivision that comes out on Robson Road.

Combs said that is a construction

(Continued on page 17)

## Welcome, Olivia Viola Vogtmann



Holly Smith Vogtmann and Jeremy Vogtmann of Livonia announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Olivia Viola Vogtmann at 11:08 p.m. Sept. 4, 2014 at Southfield Providence Alternative Birthing Center. She weighed seven pounds, one ounce and measured 22 inches in length. Grandparents are Curt and Stephanie Smith of Belleville and Paul and Yvonne Vogtmann of Linwood, MI. Great-grandparents are Viola Smith of Belleville, Mary Ann Vogtmann of Bay City, and Frank Furst of Sanford, MI.

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 public's money."  
 - Alexis de Tocqueville



**Court Watching:****Bumper pleads guilty to domestic violence, but can't stop talking**

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Terry Bumper accepted a plea agreement on Jan. 21 before 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley and pled guilty to domestic violence, a misdemeanor. He told the judge he touched his girlfriend in an improper, defensive manner with his hand.

Bumper will come back to the judge for a sentence in the future after recommendations from the probation department.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Danielle Strace said she thought Judge Oakley should know that although Bumper has a no-contact order attached to his bond, just that morning in the court hallway he took pictures of the victim and her mother and was disrespectful to the prosecutor in court.

"We have a history," said Judge Oakley referring to Bumper who stood before him. "It's not a good history, but I'm giving you a fresh start." He reminded Bumper that there will be no phone calls, no Twitter, or other contact.

"We're looking at a possible deferred sentence. Ignore her or experience my wrath," Judge Oakley warned.

Bumper left the courtroom after telling the judge he was through with his girlfriend and would have no reason to contact her. Then, Prosecutor Strace returned to the courtroom, telling the judge that she was with the victim in the hallway just then and the defendant kept calling out things to her from a distance.

"He doesn't get the idea," she reported.

Court-appointed attorney Jeff Bowdich was directed by Judge Oakley to go get his client and bring him back to the courtroom.

Bumper again stood before the judge and Judge Oakley again told him of the no-contact rule.

Prosecutor Strace said Bumper has been commenting over and over and as she walked to the door he kept talking to her.

"The victim is upset about the plea," Bowdich explained to the judge.

"He was talking about *me*," Prosecutor Strace told the judge.

Judge Oakley told Bumper that if he hears that Bumper violated the no-contact order he will set Bumper's bond at \$100,000 or 10% and he'll end up in jail.

"Mr. Bumper is stepping back from the edge," Bowdich told the judge in a positive manner.

After Bumper again left the courtroom, Judge Oakley heaved a sigh.

"He can't shut up. He can't do it," Judge Oakley said and Van Buren Township Detective Ken Toney, the officer on the case, quietly agreed.

**David Michael Dorton**

David Michael Dorton, Jr., 40, waived his preliminary exam on the charges of possession of narcotics less than 25 grams, delivery/manufacture of marijuana, and

operating a vehicle while license suspended, revoked or denied on Jan. 11 in the city of Belleville.

Judge Oakley bound him over to circuit court for a Jan. 28 arraignment on the information. Court-appointed attorney David Lankford was his defense attorney. Officer in charge is Belleville Cpl. Kris Faull.

Bond of \$50,000 or 10% was continued. Dorton was lodged in the Wayne County Jail.

**Emmanuel Ananias Hannon**

Emmanuel Ananias Hannon, 26, waived his upcoming Jan. 28 preliminary exam on charges of forgery and uttering and publishing and Judge Oakley bound him over to a Feb. 4 arraignment on the information at circuit court.

The alleged crimes took place on Dec. 4, 2013 in Van Buren Township.

Court-appointed attorney David Lankford told the judge that his client apologized to the victim and Judge Oakley told him, "Don't do that." Although it is good that he is sorry, the judge said, there is a no-contact order with his bond of \$2,000/10%, which he posted.

VBT Det. Toney is in charge of the case.

Judge Oakley noted that Hannon is current on his payment plans for infractions in April 2011 and November 2013.

**Asia Perri Jones**

Asia Perri Jones, 20, was before the judge for a probable cause hearing and review on three separate charges. One charge was

for failing to display a license properly for which she was out on bond of \$2,000 or 10%, which she posted. VBT Officer Mike Long was the officer in charge.

The other charges were for assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and domestic violence on Aug. 27 in Van Buren Township. The warrant for her arrest was signed Dec. 19 and she was out on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond on these charges. VBT Officer Scott Griggs was the officer in charge.

Her preliminary exam at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court was to be held Jan. 28 and she will be defended by court-appointed attorney Lankford.

**Anthony Wayne Fitzsimmons**

Anthony Wayne Fitzsimmons, 35, waived his upcoming preliminary exam at a probable cause hearing before Judge Oakley. He was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Feb. 4. His bond of \$2,000/10%, which he posted, was continued.

Fitzsimmons is charged with operating while intoxicated-3<sup>rd</sup> and driving while license suspended, revoked or denied in Sumpter Township on Aug. 23. The recommendation for a warrant was signed Dec. 18.

He has retained a defense attorney. Sumpter Officer Joseph Balowski is the officer in charge.

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**DATE: JANUARY 26, 2015**

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**6 MAIN STREET**  
**BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

**PUBLISH: JANUARY 29, 2015**

**BY LISA LONG, CITY CLERK**

**Sumpter Township Public Notice**

**SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**TO RESCIND OR AMEND THE**  
**SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMIT**

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 at 7:05 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2015 regarding the rescinding or amending of a Special Exception use Permit.

**NATURE OF THE REQUEST**

The Public Hearing will consider rescinding or amending the special exception for Sumpter Roller Rink 19750 Sumpter to have Exercise Classes, Dances, Party Rentals, etc.

**SITE LOCATION**

The site for the proposed special exception will be on approx. 3 acres located at 19750 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 81-033-99-0002-000. This Public Hearing has been scheduled in accordance with the requirements of Public Act. 168, Section 0 of 1959 (amendments to the Township Rural Zoning Act. P.A. 184) to provide all interested citizens an opportunity to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss in detail all aspects of the rescinding or amending or the special exception.

For those unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office prior to the hearing date.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.  
 Clerk  
 Sumpter Township

Publish: January 29, 2015

**City of Belleville Public Notice**

**City of Belleville**  
**Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Absent/Excused
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

**3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**4. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve agenda as presented.  
 MOTION CARRIED.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 15, 2014 as presented.  
 MOTION CARRIED.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES**

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-001** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 as presented.  
 MOTION CARRIED.

**10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

None.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 P.M.  
 MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer  
 Approved: January 20, 2015  
 Published: January 29, 2015



# VBT Board

(continued from page 14)

access road that the county allowed during construction and it was supposed to be closed off. Combs said she will look into that and it may or may not be something allowed. She said she realizes that road brings extra traffic to Robson Road.

Trustee Hart voiced concerns about what would happen if the developer sold those last lots to somebody else who wouldn't have to fulfill the requirements of the PRD.

There are no bonds and so the three certificates of occupancy are the only leverage the township has, Combs repeated.

"We will call them and we expect them to

honor the agreement," Combs said, adding, "This is a viable company."

"You could put a lien on this vacant property," said Oliver. That's what I would do. That would stop him in his tracks."

Combs said the PRD is built out except for the commercial and multiple dwellings not constructed, with some single lots around.

Tia Williams, treasurer of the Walden Woods Homeowners Association, came to the lectern to tell of the homeowners' concerns.

She listed addresses of the three houses almost done and three vacant lots with for-sale signs as: 43518 and 43640 S. Timberview Drive and 44000, 44001, 44046, and 44078 Timberview Court.

She said Walden Woods was built in five phases and the developer will be leaving soon and there are no street lights and sidewalks in Phase 5.

"We'll assist in any way we can in the planning department," Combs said, adding she will send a township employee out to review the property for completion of the required projects.

At the board's Oct. 7 meeting, Oliver first told of his concerns about the infrastructure of Walden Woods near his home. He said the development started in 1993 and there were just a few lots left. He said for the 300 homes, two of the three entrances are on dirt roads.

Oliver told the board then that the agreement called for Morton Taylor to be hard surfaced from the subdivision entrance to Tyler Road prior to occupancy on Phase 4 and they are now on Phase 5.

In other business at the Jan. 13 meeting, the board:

- Witnessed years of service awards announced for 18 employees, with only eight present to accept their certificates and pins; and

- Held a public hearing on moving \$77,800 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the 2012 and 2013 CDBG budgets to be used for buying four outdoor emergency sirens. No member of the public spoke at the hearing and the board unanimously approved using the funds for the sirens.



## Dudek Heating & Cooling

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Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters  
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing**

**Keith Dudek : Owner**  
11681 Rawsonville  
Belleville, MI 48111

**Office: (734) 461-6165**  
**Cell: (734) 730-9733**



## They're reading the Independent everywhere

Ron and Cindy Lewis of Belleville enjoy reading their *Independent* while vacationing in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on Jan. 17.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

## BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as a recipient of the Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate Award.

Please check here if candidate is deceased \_\_\_\_\_.  
(If so, please complete "Special Posthumous Category" below)

### Candidate's Background:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Graduation date must be at least ten (10) years prior to current graduation year in order to qualify for Distinguished Graduate Award.)

### Special Posthumous Category:

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Graduation date must be at least ten (10) years prior to current graduation year in order to qualify for Distinguished Graduate Award.)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, briefly describe why you think this candidate should be considered for this award:

Please return to Belleville High School, Attn: Melissa Lloyd, 501 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111, no later than February 9, 2015. The Distinguished Graduate ceremony will take place May 28 during the BHS graduation at Eastern Michigan University.



# Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



A Valentine Heart Centerpiece Class is being held this Saturday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at **Garden Fantasy Florist & Greenhouses** on Haggerty Road just north of I-94. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations are required and can be made by calling **(734) 699-7370**. The make-n-take project will take about an hour and all the materials are included.

\*\*\*

**Van Buren Area Little League** will be holding a **Bottle & Can Drive** next Monday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is pick up only and pick-ups can be scheduled anytime by calling or texting addresses to **(734) 260-5990** or **(734) 249-9146**. All proceeds will benefit the little league and boys and girls baseball and softball.

\*\*\*

The **Unified Communities Credit Union** in downtown Belleville offers refinancing rates on auto and truck loans as low as 1.75%. To learn more, call **(734) 697-4800** and visit them at **www.unifiedcommunitiesfcu.com**.

\*\*\*

The **Belleville Coney Island** on Sumpter Road is under new ownership offering daily breakfast specials from \$1.99 and lunch specials, like 99 cent tacos on Monday and .99 cent coneys on Tuesday. Their banquet room is also available for your next special occasion. See their ad in today’s paper and call **(734) 325-2603**.

\*\*\*

All the best to **Darcel Brown** of **Planet Hair** on Haggerty Road, who sold her business and is moving to South Carolina to pursue her breakdancing career (just kiddin’). Her last day is tomorrow. Tia McCoy of Belleville is the new owner. Good luck in all your endeavors, Darcel.

\*\*\*

Love is in the air at **Perspective Eyecare** in the plaza on Belleville Road. Right now get 25% off a complete second pair with purchase of an exam and complete pair of glasses or six months of contact lenses. Some restrictions apply. Offer ends March 31, 2015. Call **(734) 699-1010**.

\*\*\*

**J n G Auction** will be holding a public auction this Saturday, Jan. 31 beginning with previews at 6 p.m. inside the Q at 879 Sumpter Road next to Belleville Coney Island. Items include tools, toys, electronics, furniture, collectibles, and much more. The cash only auction starts at 7 p.m. J n G is also holding an online auction Feb. 5-10. Call **(734) 489-4636** and visit **www.jngauctions.com** to register.

\*\*\*

Want free color in the *Independent*? Simply sign your ad up for a year. If you’re an advertiser that runs every week with us anyway, the 52-week run will not only get your ad colorized by our production team, you’ll save 35% off the total contract. Call with any questions at **(734) 699 9020**.

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected calls for VBT Police.*

### Sunday, Jan. 18:

- 0016 – property damage accident, Martz/Hoeft
- 0143 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
- 1056 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1111 – juvenile complaint, EB I-94/Belleville
- 1243 – suspicious situation, Rawsonville Rd.
- 1345 – breaking & entering, Oak Ln.
- 1501 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
- 1635 – hold-up alarm, Belleville Rd.
- 1712 – assault & battery, N. Timberview Dr.
- 1915 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
- 1925 – suspicious situation, Westlake
- 2321 – suspicious vehicle, Lakewood
- 2340 – assault & battery, Sawgrass Ct.

### Monday, Jan. 19:

- 0302 – abandoned auto, Visteon
- 1322 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake/Liberty
- 1448 – suspicious person, Rawsonville
- 1804 – harassment call, Maple
- 2148 – shots fired, Denton Rd.

### Tuesday, Jan. 20:

- 0219 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
- 0655 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
- 0922 – private property accident, Rawsonville
- 0948 – private property accident, Extra Space
- 0951 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
- 1022 – mental, Rawsonville
- 1346 – mental, Peninsular Dr.
- 1455 – property damage accident, Haggerty
- 1528 – fraud, Belleville
- 1722 – larceny from auto, Ecorse Rd.
- 1737 – property damage accident, Hoeft/Martz
- 1834 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
- 1930 – suspicious vehicle, Edison Lake Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

- 1930 – follow-up, Martz Rd.
- 1953 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 2009 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
- 2015 – disturbance, Parkwood

### Wednesday, Jan. 21:

- 0307 – suspicious person, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Morton Taylor
- 0325 – suspicious situation, Hardwood Dr.
- 0627 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Ironwood Dr.
- 0732 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
- 0735 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 0737 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
- 0749 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/I-275
- 0939 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Beck
- 1325 – property damage accident, Milton Dr.
- 1538 – hospice, Robson Rd.
- 1709 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1743 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Old Rawsonville

- 1809 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.

### Thursday, Jan. 22:

- 1214 – private property accident, Brandi
- 1310 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
- 1314 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.
- 1528 – private property accident, Haggerty Rd.
- 1556 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
- 1617 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1713 – suspicious person, Quirk Rd./Tyler Rd.
- 1934 – sexual assault, Belleville Rd.
- 2002 – disorderly conduct, Belleville

### Friday, Jan. 23:

- 0026 – assault & battery, N. Bellridge Dr.
- 0034 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
- 0137 – assault & battery, Rock Creek Dr.
- 0709 – larceny, Pierce St.
- 0755 – larceny from auto, Florence Ln.
- 1056 – missing person, Country Walk Blvd.
- 1810 – missing person, Elwell Rd.
- 1849 – breaking & entering, Brookside Dr.
- 1923 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
- 1924 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 2104 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty / Van Born
- 2130 – private property accident, Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 2217 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Dewitt

### Saturday, Jan 24:

- 0123 – suspicious person, W. Archwood
- 0250 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0523 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 0824 – private property accident, Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 0837 – assault & battery, Hawthorne Ct.
- 1110 – intimidation threat, Belleville Rd.
- 1200 – suspicious situation, Robson/Belleville
- 1451 – private property accident, Water Works
- 1521 – suspicious situation, Riggs Rd.
- 1547 – property damage accident, Martz/Hoeft
- 1557 – suspicious person, Winchester
- 1755 – suspicious person, S. Ponderosa Trl.
- 1835 – suspicious vehicle, Savage Rd.
- 1854 – assault & battery, Jeannette Ave.
- 2201 – fraud, Belleville
- 2328 – breaking & entering, Lake Villa Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 162 traffic stops, 33 of them being on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Jan. 18:

- 0412 – domestic assault, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1342 – assist fire dept., Church St.
- 1359 – agency assist, Greylock St.
- 1752 – agency assist, Main St.
- 1801 – suspicious person, Loza Ln.

### Monday, Jan. 19:

- 0101 – narcotics crime, Main St.
- 0137 – disturbance, Loza Ln.
- 0415 – vehicle repossession, Belle Villa
- 0628 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
- 1107 – hospice, Capistrano Ct.
- 1324 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake/Liberty
- 1425 – suspicious situation, Charter One Bank
- 1556 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
- 1815 – assist fire dept., First St.

### Tuesday, Jan. 20:

- 0401 – domestic assault, Henry
- 1552 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 1723 – found property, Main St.
- 1744 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 1753 – agency assist, Hoeft/Martz
- 1833 – civil matter, Main St.
- 2049 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.

- 2116 – vehicle lockout, Family Dollar

### Wednesday, Jan. 21:

- 0156 – suspicious person, Savage/RR tracks
- 1146 – narcotics crime, Sumpter/Hull
- 1841 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St.
- 1906 – suspicious situation, Sumpter/Owen
- 1923 – assist fire dept., E. Waterbury Ct.

### Thursday, Jan. 22:

- 0029 – suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1715 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
- 1909 – suspicious situation, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1951 – disorderly conduct, Sumpter Rd.
- 2150 – suspicious situation, Victorian Ln.

### Friday, Jan. 23:

- 0005 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 0032 – water leak found, N. Liberty St.
- 0318 – suspicious situation, Citgo
- 0839 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1116 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 1749 – larceny, Harbour Pointe Dr.
- 1839 – operating while intoxicated, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe
- 2027 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St.
- 2148 – disturbance, S. Biggs
- 2338 – agency assist, N. Liberty St.

### Saturday, Jan. 24:

- 0913 – civil matter, Biggs St.
- 2351 – disturbance, Carmell St.

Also on this week’s log are 44 traffic stops.

## Lacrosse Registration

## Wednesday, Feb. 18

6:30-8 p.m.

BHS Room 85

Information:

bellevillelacrosseboosters@gmail.com

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Jan. 18:

- 0153 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 0237 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1010 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1258 – warrant arrest, out of township
- 1302 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willis Ct.
- 1511 – suspicious person, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1603 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1629 – animal complaint, 46000 bb1. Dunn Rd.
- 1719 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
- 1746 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
- 1851 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1908 – fire dept. assist, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 2032 – threats complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2124 – mental health commitment, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.

- 2140 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Wear

### Monday, Jan. 19:

- 0038 – animal complaint, Willow/Elwell
- 1118 – suspicious incident, Greenmeadow
- 1142 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
- 1241 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1530 – trespassing complaint, 24000 bl. Haggerty
- 1630 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1715 – alarm, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
- 1750 – well-being check, Wayside
- 1856 – suspicious incident, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 2240 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2333 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.

### Tuesday, Jan. 20:

- 0726 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
- 0746 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.
- 0944 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1234 – property damage accident, Elwell/Willis
- 1612 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1700 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1800 – property damage accident, 45000 bl. Harris
- 1812 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1952 – ordinance violation, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 2003 – assist other agency, Greenmeadow
- 2031 – assist other agency, Greenmeadow
- 2353 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Judd

### Wednesday, Jan. 21:

- 0011 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis / Sumpter
- 1000 – death investigation, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1314 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1956 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
- 2216 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

### Thursday, Jan. 22:

- 0750 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 0906 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 1304 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Savage Rd.
- 1350 – identity theft report, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 1614 – civil dispute, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
- 2220 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 2227 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Friday, Jan. 23:

- 0722 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 0949 – suspicious incident, Carriage Ln.
- 1247 – civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
- 1343 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville/Willis
- 1544 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1546 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
- 1721 – mental health commitment, Oregon
- 1730 – civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
- 1858 – subpoena service, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1928 – warrant arrest, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.

### Saturday, Jan. 24:

- 0135 – traffic hazard, Clark/Willow
- 0433 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 0903 – warrant arrest, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
- 1011 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
- 1300 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1423 – warrant arrest, out of township
- 1719 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 1833 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1946 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 2144 – suspicious person, Oakville Waltz / Martinsville

Also on this week’s log are five follow-up investigations, 32 miscellaneous details, 124 patrol checks, and 64 traffic stops.

**One Call Does It All...**  
**...At The Independent**  
**734-699-9020**

## Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan  
Animals Rescue

**"PORSHA"**



Petite, pretty and playful, **Porsha's** got it all! She may appear a little reserved until she gets to know you but when she does she has no trouble seeking out pets and playtime. Her likes include chasing after fun toys, trying to catch laser beam lights, cat napping in warm, cuddly spots and chowing on yummy food. Her dislikes include too much noise, not getting pets when she comes looking for them and finding an empty food dish. **Porsha's** pretty laid-back for the most part and would enjoy best a fur-ever home without a lot of crazy activity or hyper kids. She would also like you to know that she keeps her mostly black coat shiny and healthy and won't need much grooming help besides a good brushing once in awhile. There's no reason pretty **Porsha** won't make a "purr-fect" furry companion in the right home so call today to come meet her. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



## VBT sets 20<sup>th</sup>-annual Daddy-Daughter Dances for Feb. 13 and 14

Van Buren Township will hold its 20<sup>th</sup>-annual Daddy Daughter Dances from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14.

This year's theme is Disney's "Frozen!" Daddies and Daughters are invited to come ready to dance and share the evening with their loved one. There will be music, light refreshments, crafts and photos taken to remember the special evening.

Grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, etc. are invited as well, said Jennifer Zaenglein, Deputy Director of VBT Parks and Recreation.

Zaenglein said to please keep in mind that tickets will NOT be sold at the door. Tickets are limited and they do sell out each year. She advises those interested not to delay registering.

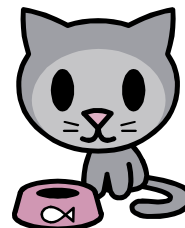
Ticket prices are: Van Buren residents, \$20 per couple; non-residents, \$25 per couple; \$5 for each additional child; and \$10 for each additional adult.

For information call (734) 699-8921.

At the 2014 Father Daughter Dance, Bode and Ryann Zaenglein enjoyed a dance.



## The Willis Feed Mill

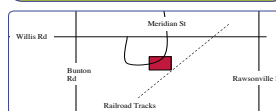


**We carry a wide variety of the very best:**

- Dog and Cat Food
- Wild Bird and Squirrel Food
- Certified Organic Products
- Hay and Straw
- Poultry Food
- Horse and Livestock Feed



**HOURS:**  
**MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-5PM**  
**SUN 12PM-4PM**



**10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan**

(South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)

*We look forward to seeing you soon.*

**(734) 461-1111**

**willisfeed@att.net**

## Danielle Manley named to honor roll at Lawrence Technological University

Danielle Manley of Belleville has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall 2014 semester at Lawrence Technological University. Danielle is majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

To be named to the honor roll a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

— Benjamin Franklin



**Hours:**  
**Monday - Saturday 6am - 10pm**  
**Sunday 7am - 9pm**

**734-697-1000**

**9624 Belleville Rd.**  
**Belleville, MI**

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**\$7.99**

**CHOOSE FROM**

- **All American Burger** Double Patty & Cheese
- **Texas Burger** ½ lb. Burger with Bacon, Cheese & BBQ Sauce
- **Belleville Burger** With Coleslaw, Red Onions & American Cheese
- **Ultimate Cheeseburger** With Cheddar, American, Swiss & Mozzarella Cheese
- **Cajun Burger** With Jalapeño & Swiss Cheese
- **Chicken Melt** • **Super Patty Melt**
- **California Chicken Burger**
- **Buffalo Chicken Burger**
- **Leo's Super Slim Jim** • **Slim Jim**
- **Chicken Philly Wrap** • **Chicken Sub**



**Try Our Waffle Fries!**

**— MONDAYS —**  
**ENJOY OUR CLOWN,**  
**FACE PAINTING & BALLOONS**  
**6-8PM**

## Check Out These Offers!

**Buy 5 Cones, Get 1 Free!**

*Not valid on Mondays.*

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**\$2 OFF**

**Your Entire Bill**

*of \$20 or More*  
 With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**10% OFF**

**Your Entire Bill**

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

**Create Your Own Breakfast Skillet**

**\$7.99** *Up To 5 Items*

With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

## BREAKFAST SPECIALS

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**6am - 11am**

**Starting at only \$2.49**

*No Coupon Needed!*







**2014  
FOCUS SE**  
24 month lease for  
**\$126/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$4,500.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$14,483**



**2015  
FUSION SE**  
24 month lease for  
**\$130/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$3,500.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$18,599**

# WINTER IS HERE!

## WARM UP TO THESE HOT DEALS AT ATCHINSON FORD!



**2014 EDGE SE**  
24 month lease for  
**\$190/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$4,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$23,935**



**2015 ESCAPE SE**  
24 month lease for  
**\$128/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$3,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$20,689**



**2014 F-150  
SUPERCAB XLT 4X4**  
w/Leather  
24 month lease for  
**\$249/mo.\***  
**REBATES UP TO \$6,000.**  
**BUY AS LOW AS \$31,568**

### USED CAR SPECIAL



**2009 LINCOLN  
MKS**  
Loaded  
**\$13,999**

\*AZ Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. \*\*AZ Plan Pricing. All rebates to Dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees. May require trade-in.



**Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc.**  
9800 Belleville Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111

**734-697-9161**  
**www.atchinson.net**



**RE/MAX**

**CROSSROADS III**

418 Main Street

Belleville, Michigan 48111

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

**GLENN SILVENIS**

**(734) 699-4000**

**www.MrSold.com**

**SELL PHONE (734) 740-3000**



**41525 TYLER, VAN BUREN**  
**BECAUSE YOU DESERVE IT!** Ultra move in condition 4 bedroom, 2 bath Full brick ranch with premium kitchen, fireplace, newer carpet, and floor coverings. 3 seasons room, full finished basement with bar, Large 2+ Acre parcel with huge pole barn. \$244,900



**132 N LIBERTY, BELLEVILLE**  
**MULTI MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS** Updated 3 Bedroom Belleville Lake Home. Lakefront views from doorwalls & master bedroom, updated kitchen, newer roof, walkout deck from large family room w fireplace. New flooring, paint walkout basement \$269,900.



**44233 HARMONY LANE, VAN BUREN**  
**BELLEVILLE LAKE FRONT ESTATE.** Indoor olympic pool & whirlpool, multiple fireplaces, skylights, large bath with bidet, family room with fireplace, 4 1/2 baths and 5 bedrooms. Many newer improvements, 350 ft lake frontage on 2+ acres with boathouse and tennis court. This is a Castle to make one feel like Royalty.. \$699,000



**9019 COGSWELL, ROMULUS**  
**WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING** in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. \$499,900.



**9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN**  
**CAR COLLECTORS DREAM!** Load up the pole barns with 30+ cars! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement plus large family room & bar and NEW ROOF (2014). Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible rezoning to commercial use. \$214,900



**19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP**  
**GREAT LOCATION** with little competition. 4,100+ square foot set up for a bar/ restaurant or pizzeria. Most equipment could be included. Looks great and shows even better. Plenty of parking on 2+ acres. A Best Buy investment property at only \$387,000



**991 E HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN**  
**MULTIPLES OF VALUE ARE PRESENT** In This Larger 1,571 Sq Ft Custom Built 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home. Featuring Open Kitchen-Dining-Living Room, Gas Fireplace in Family Room, 90+ Furnace, Deck, Shed, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage on .92 Acre Parcel. This is One Wins the I Love Clean Contest! \$159,900.

**VACANT LAND  
BUILD YOUR DREAM**  
**VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP**  
14435 HAGGERTY 1.42 ACRES \$24,900  
BOG RD VAN BUREN .55 ACRES \$29,750  
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500  
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000  
**SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**  
49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000  
ELWELL 19.34 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000  
25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000  
28865 SUMPTER 3.9 ACRES \$22,500  
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000  
RAWSONVILLE 12 ACRES \$94,900  
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900  
**ROMULUS**  
COGSWELL ROMULUS .71 ACRES \$35,000  
**BELLEVILLE**  
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500



**45205 JEANETTE, VAN BUREN**  
**CITY CLOSE - COUNTRY COMFORT -** CURB APPEAL PLUS. Lots to love in this Large Parcel 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial. Hardwood floors, Large living room, 2 1/2 Car attached garage and Huge Detached Barn with Loft. Paved street, Wonderful Neighborhood and Minutes from all Freeways. \$155,900



**500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE**  
**HIGHEST QUALITY!** Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity. The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$750,000 (or \$18.00 square ft - triple net lease)